



**USAID**  
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**WEST BANK/GAZA**

## FACT SHEET

### DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE OFFICE

### PROJECT PROFILE

#### Peace and Reconciliation Program: Good Water Neighbors

**JUNE 2010**



*Youth Water Trustees activity*

#### CHALLENGES

- Travel restrictions on Israelis and Palestinians prevent neighboring communities from meeting freely and discussing common issues.
- There are “spoilers” in all communities who object to cooperation.

#### CONTACT INFO

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#### Project Overview

Good Water Neighbors is part of a larger Conflict Management and Mitigation small-grant program that USAID brings together individuals of different ethnic, religious, and/or political backgrounds in people-to-people activities that address the root causes of tension and instability.

#### Goals

- Advance dialogue in cross-border communities by utilizing the mutual interest of common water and environment.
- Promote conflict resolution and peace.
- Improve awareness of environment and water issues specific to each pair of communities.

#### Activities

The “Good Water Neighbors” (GWN) project utilizes the mutual dependence on shared water resources as a basis for developing dialogue and cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians.

In each of the cross-border communities in which this project is implemented field staff work in close partnership with youth, adults and municipalities to improve awareness of the environment, particularly the neighboring community’s water. By undertaking concrete activities that are highly relevant to the needs of those involved, GWN promotes a common understanding of environmental issues and helps build trust between the cross-border communities as a basis for conflict resolution and peace building.

#### Successes

- Formed New Youth Water Trustees groups, totaling 727 youth, in all communities, which have undertaken weekly educational activities about regional environmental and water issues.
- Guided 1,101 participants on 31 Neighbors Path tours, giving visitors a better understanding of the local and regional water issues and the need for greater cooperation.
- Brought together 250 mayors, community leaders and active residents from the 25 participating communities – 49 of them from the 17 Israeli and Palestinian communities supported by USAID – to discuss shared water issues during the 2010 mayors’ conference.

#### Project Detail

Implementing Partner: Friends of the Earth Middle East, Life of Project: 09/30/2009-09/29/2012; Total Estimated Cost: \$1,121,000.